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It will thus be seen that most of the first-class powers of the world have been before the Court, which has thus been given the most effective sort of practical recognition.

Another feature of the Hague Convention, the provision for international commissions of inquiry, was brought into operation in the case of the North Sea incident between Great Britain and Russia, and proved itself to be a most admirable instrument for the purpose for which it was devised, the determination of the controverted facts lying at the basis of disputes. Strong efforts were made several times during the course of the Russo-Japanese War to secure the application of the provision of the Hague Treaty for special mediation by the signatory powers, but unfortunately without result. The action of President Roosevelt in bringing the belligerents together in conference with a view to ending the war was greatly facilitated by the provision of the Convention that a tender of good offices by a neutral should not be considered an unfriendly act. It is very doubtful if his efforts would have been successful, or even made, but for this clause of the Convention.

This simple recital makes it clear that the results of the first Hague Conference have been most important and lasting, beyond all that could have been expected in so short a time. We have been given through it the auspicious beginnings of a recognized international judicial order, which only needs patient employment and fuller development to put an end to the international chaos and violence which have hitherto so largely prevailed, and bring the nations in their relations to one another up to something like the standard of settled peace and pacific adjustment of differences which obtain among their citizens within their borders.

The establishment and successful early work of the International Court have already removed much of the doubt which had been felt by many as to the practicability of such an institution. Its decisions have been accepted as impartial and satisfying the ends of justice and honor. The way has thus been cleared for the early perfecting of the world's judicial system, and enthusiasm for the great cause of which the Court is the largest and most assuring public expression has been vastly widened and deepened. The treaties of obligatory arbitration, of which no less than forty have been concluded within the short space of two and a half years, stipulating reference of certain classes of controversies to the Court's jurisdiction, are the direct fruit of the Hague Conference and its far-reaching work. They have greatly strengthened the prestige of the Court with the governments and deepened the confidence of the general public in it.

We may feel assured, therefore, that even if the Hague Tribunal should remain just as it now is, without further development, it would in time prove, with the aid of the

other provisions of the Convention, a fairly adequate means for upholding justice and settled peace among the nations. But the situation that has been brought about by the Conference of 1899 points just as surely to greater triumphs at the approaching Hague gathering. The nature of these we have frequently pointed out, and shall have occasion to set forth more fully hereafter, when the date of the Conference has been finally fixed.

### **The Fifteenth Universal Peace Congress.**

The date of the opening of the Fifteenth Universal Peace Congress, which is to meet at Milan, Italy, has been fixed for the 15th of September next. The local Committee of Organization is actively engaged, with the coöperation of the Berne Peace Bureau, in preparing the program and making the other arrangements for the work of the Congress.

This Congress ought to be made one of the greatest and most influential in the whole series of international peace gatherings. The fact that it is the fifteenth congress and that the movement has recently become one of such magnitude and momentum throughout the civilized world ought to insure its conspicuous success.

The Lombard Peace Union at Milan, with E. T. Moneta, one of the ablest and most indefatigable of peace workers, at its head, is putting forth every possible effort to insure a great and memorable meeting. The city government of Milan has shown its interest by voting the sum of \$800 toward the expenses of the Congress—the first time, so far as we remember, that any city has ever officially made such a contribution.

Interest will be added to the Congress by the Peace Exhibit which has been prepared in connection with the Milan Exposition, which opens this April and will continue till November. The Italian Committee have arranged to have the Peace Exhibit in a specially erected pavilion not far from the Section of Fine Arts. The distinguished architect Bossi has prepared the plan for the pavilion. The façade will be furnished with decorations by good artists and with three great symbolic statues by the sculptor Bionzi. The pavilion will illustrate the evolution of humanity, the struggle of civilization with barbarism, the effects of war and those of peace. There will be photographs of battles, pictures representing the progress of arbitration, statistical tables taken from official documents on the cost of war and of armed peace, charts exhibiting the history of the peace movement, etc.

There ought to be a strong delegation from this country. More than fifty were at Lucerne last year, and the Congress deeply appreciated their presence; as many or more ought to go to Milan. Our Italian

friends, who have bravely and self-sacrificingly developed their work in the midst of many difficulties, ought to have the encouragement of the attendance of a big delegation. Italy has done much for the peace movement. She has furnished distinguished arbitrators like Count Sclopis and Viscount Venosta, and eminent authorities on international law like Professor Corsi. Members of her Parliament have taken a prominent part in the Inter-parliamentary Union, and her literary men have given unusual attention to the cause of peace. The third Peace Congress, that of 1891, was held in Italy, in the Capitol at Rome, and was most successful for the time. But this one ought to be, and will be, a great advance over that early congress. All roads lead this time to Milan.

Many of our friends will be in Europe in September, and can, with small extra expense and time, arrange to go to Milan. There are boats direct to Genoa from both New York and Boston by the Mediterranean route, and the trip can be easily and inexpensively made. Will any who expect to be in Europe at that time and can arrange to attend the Congress kindly communicate as soon as practicable with the Secretary of the American Peace Society, at 31 Beacon Street, Boston.

### Annual Meeting of the American Peace Society.

The seventy-eighth annual business meeting of the American Peace Society will be held in the Society's room, 31 Beacon Street, Boston, on Friday, May 18, at two o'clock P. M. Will all members kindly make a note of the date?

The annual dinner for the members and their friends will be given in the evening of the same day at half past six o'clock at the rooms of the Twentieth Century Club, 3 Joy Street. Tickets for the dinner will be ONE DOLLAR each, and should be applied for at an early date. The speakers of the evening will be Hon. Richard Bartholdt, Member of Congress from Missouri and President of the Interparliamentary Group in Congress, and Professor Bliss Perry, editor of the *Atlantic Monthly* and newly-elected Professor of Literature in Harvard University.

### Editorial Notes.

Germany and the United States.

Prominent Germans of New York City, among whose thirty names we see those of Hon. Carl Schurz, Dr. Ernst Richard of Columbia University, etc., are interesting themselves, on the initiative of the New York German Peace Society, in the subject of an arbitration treaty between this country and Germany, drawn in such terms as to secure the approval of the Senate. In a call just issued to the German-American organizations for a meeting in Terrace Garden on the 11th of April, they say:

"As is well known to you, our government had a year or more ago signed, among others, an arbitration treaty with Germany, which for technical reasons was not approved by the Senate.

"It is not necessary to point out how much every American of German descent, who still has any trace of attachment to the old Fatherland, must desire to see avoided any serious complications between the United States and Germany whose settlement might have to be left to the sword. Misunderstandings are, however, always possible, and, in consequence of the misdirection of public opinion through the irritating tone of a portion of the press, these might all too easily lead to a war which certainly would be one of the most senseless known to history because it could bring no advantage to either side. Such a war, on whichever side the guilt might lie or the victory fall, would be for us German-Americans a very great calamity.

"For the moment, fortunately, the political horizon is free from clouds, and no disturbance of friendly relations need, seemingly, be feared. Both nations will therefore be all the more inclined to endeavor to strengthen their friendly relations. It is thus an appropriate time to resume the negotiations for the conclusion of an arbitration treaty and carry them to a successful issue.

"Following the suggestion of the German Peace Society (of New York), the undersigned therefore invite you to a meeting for the purpose of considering in what way common action may be taken by all of our German citizens—regardless of their religious, political or social positions—to petition the President of the United States *to open again the negotiations with Germany for the conclusion of an arbitration treaty—a treaty which will not only provide the best possible guarantees of lasting friendship between the two lands, but also be in harmony with our Constitution, so as to be sure of ratification by the Senate.*"

(Signed) A. ARNS,  
WILHELM BALSER, et al.

This is a most important step, and we shall all—for we are all friends of Germany—watch with deep interest the outcome of it.

Great Opening in Japan.

A letter of great interest from Mr. Gilbert Bowles, head of the Friends' Mission in Tokyo, which we publish on another page, reveals a most extraordinary opening for the planting and strong organization of the peace movement among the Japanese. We hope that every subscriber to the *ADVOCATE OF PEACE* and member of the American Peace Society will carefully read the letter and consider the problem of how help may be extended for two or three years to those who are ready and eager to do what ought to be done at once in that wonderful country on whose proper development for the next ten years the future of civilization so much depends. "The Council of the Friends of Peace and Arbitration in Japan," of which Mr. Bowles writes, was organized something over a year ago, after consultation with the Secretary of the American Peace Society. It has had a year of very